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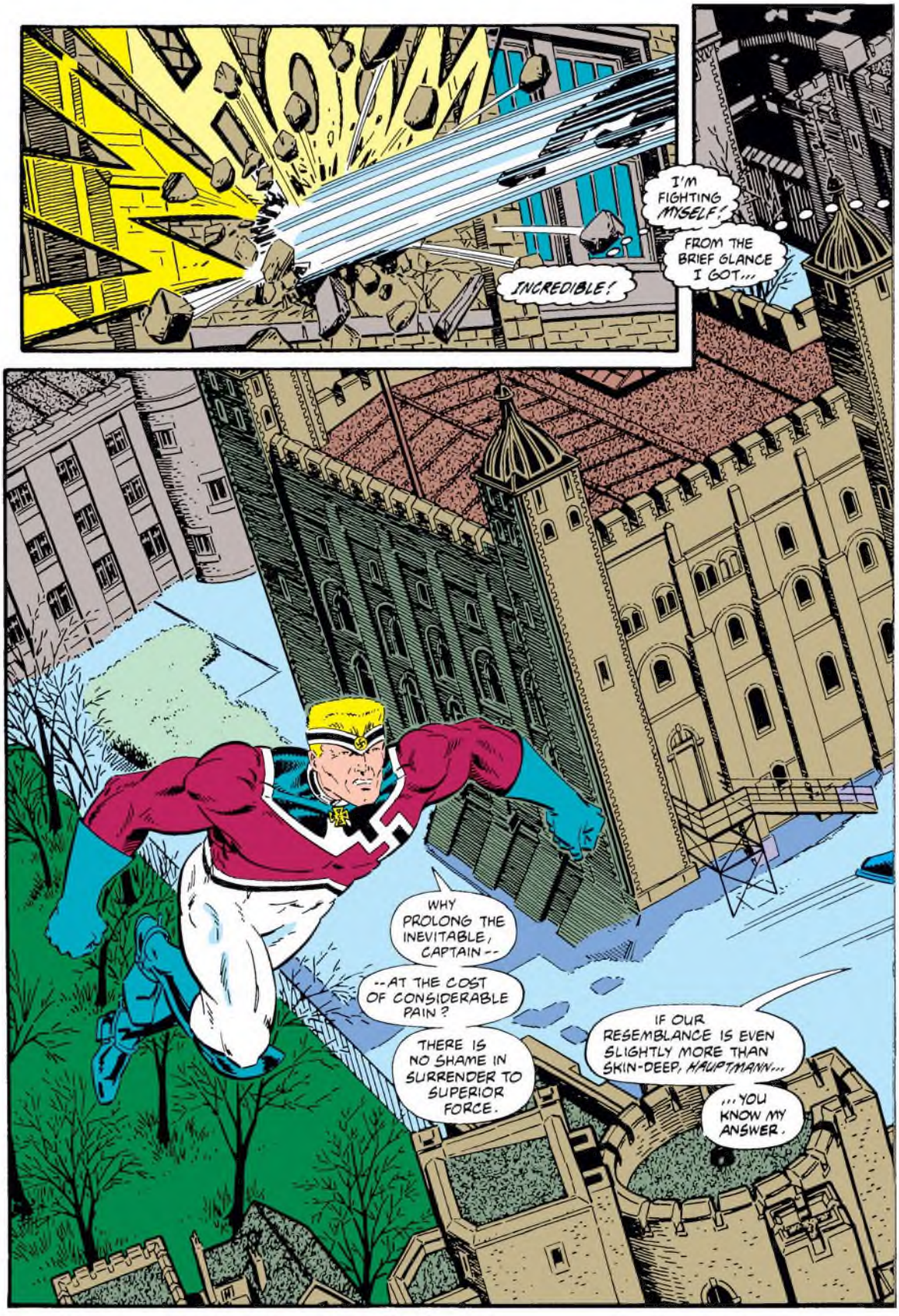
# EXCALIBUR™

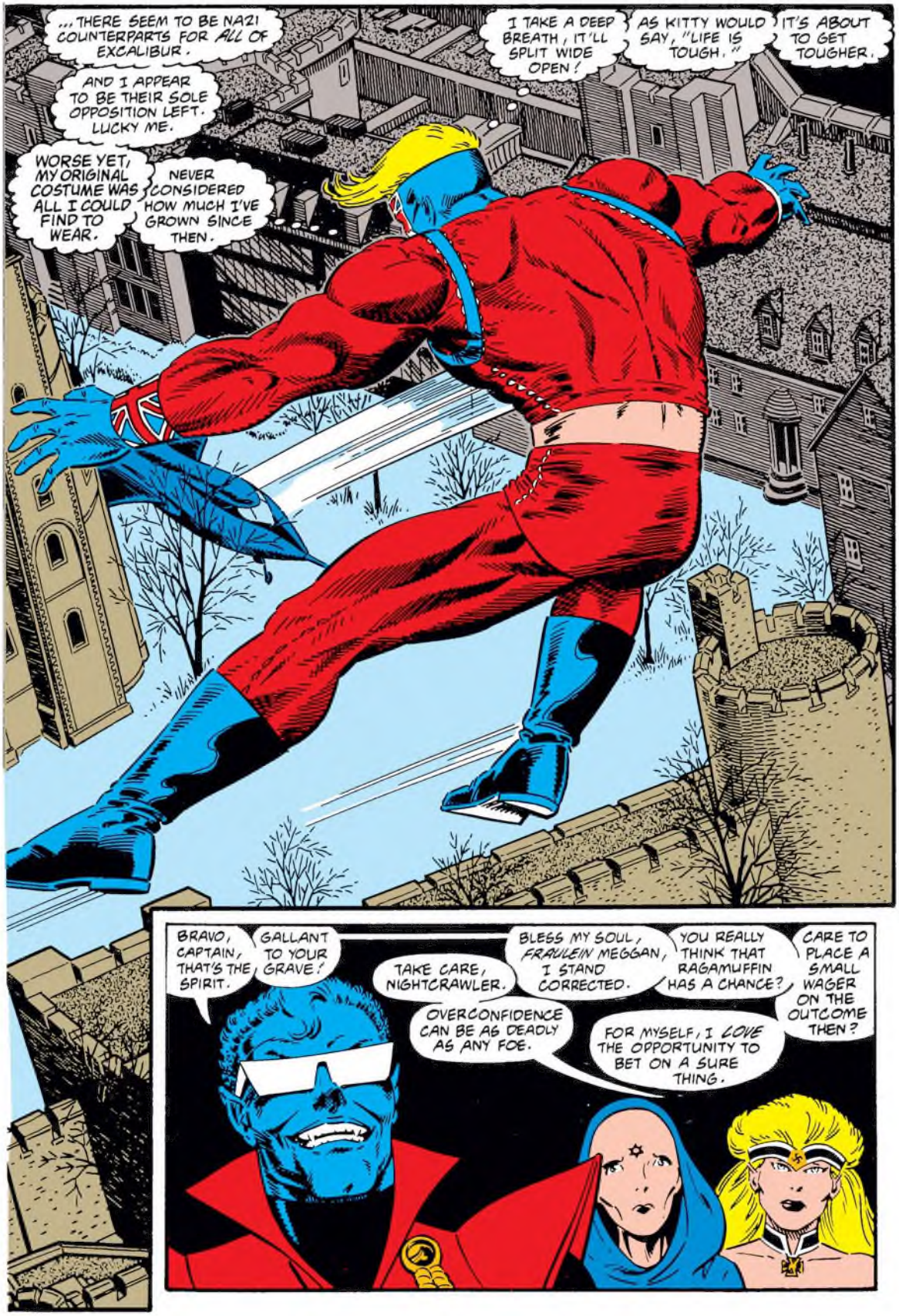
TAG--YOU'RE IT!

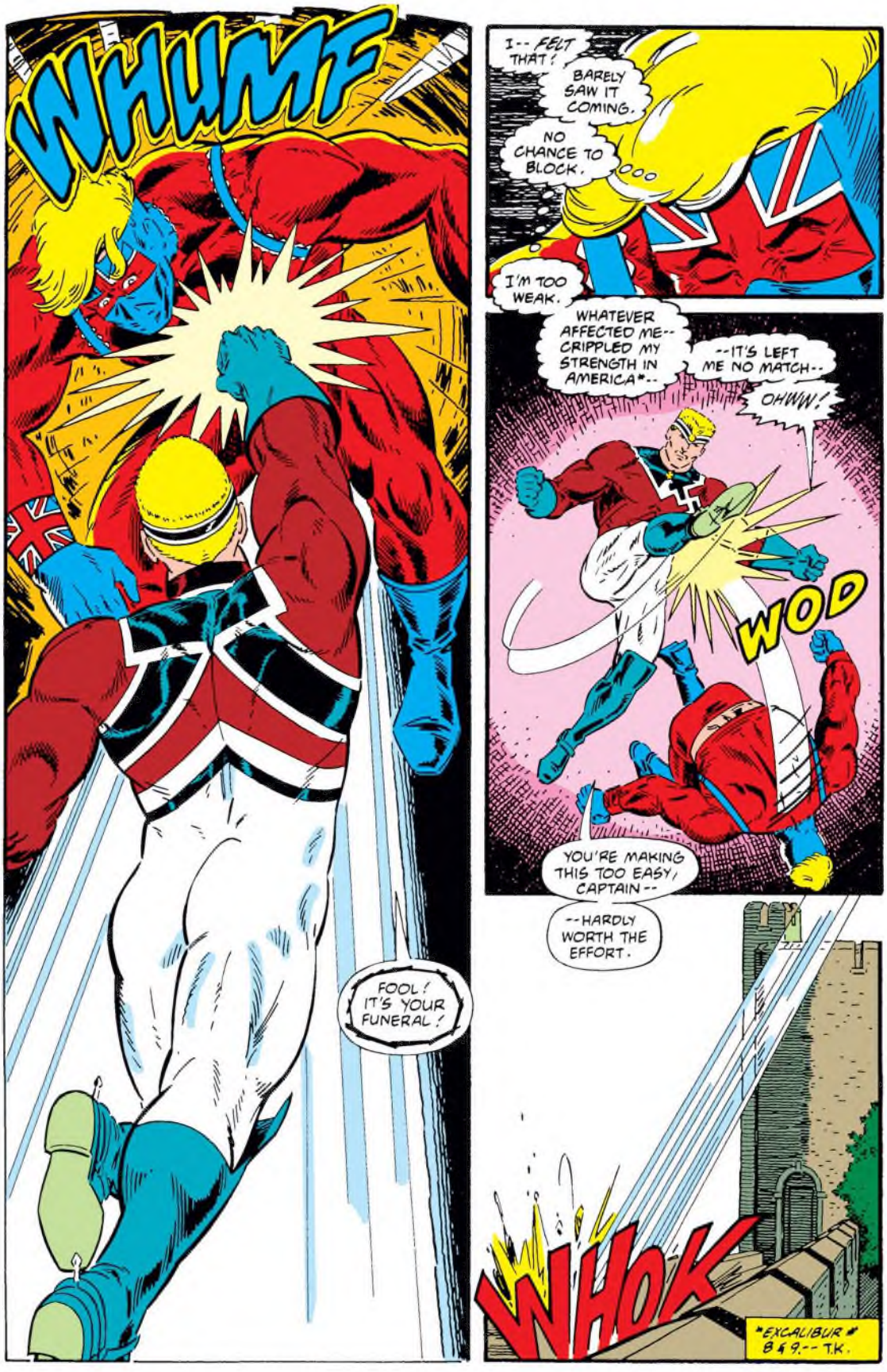
ROGERS & AUSTIN

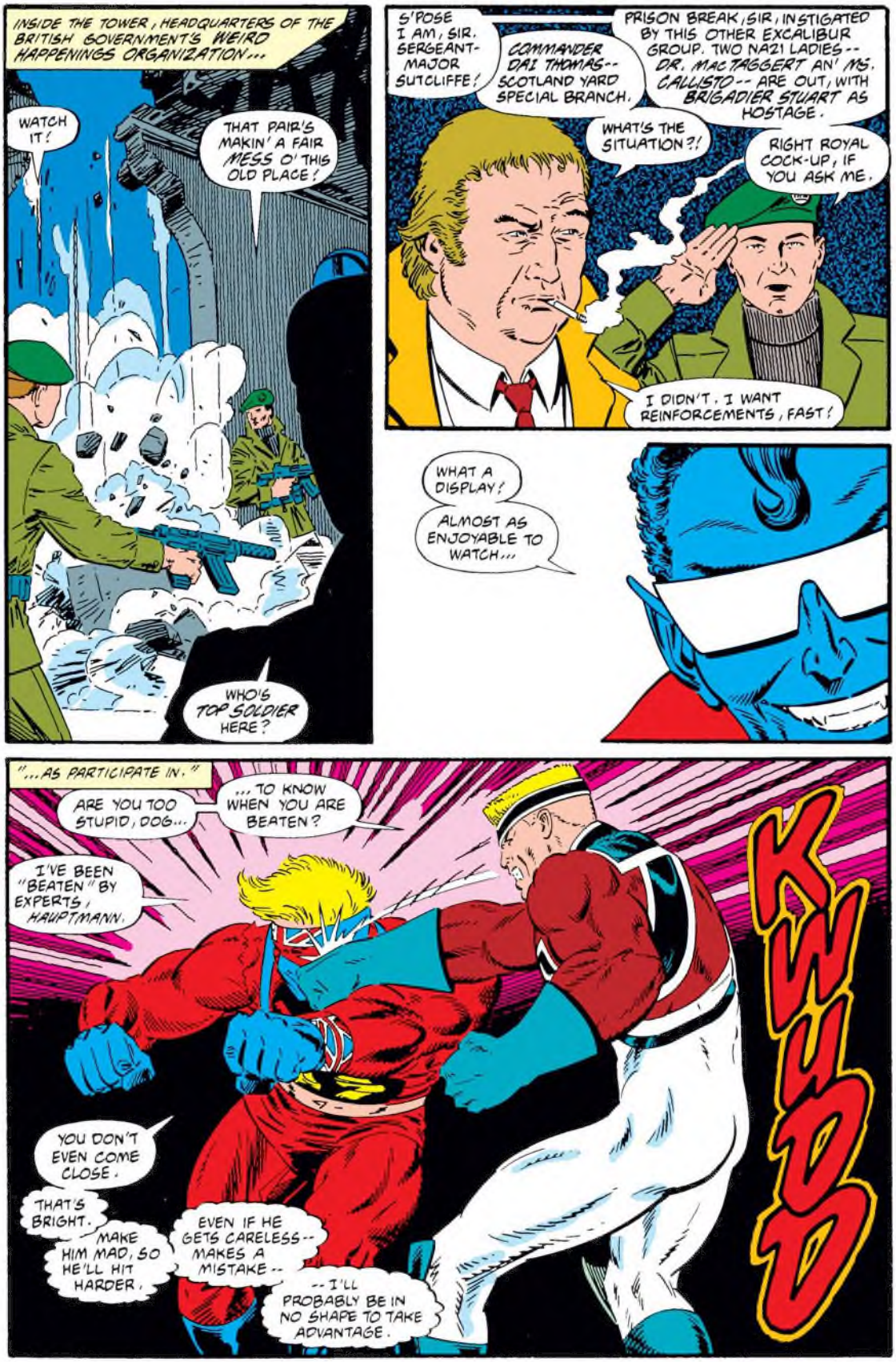
CAPTAIN BRITAIN VS. HAUPTMANN ENGLANDE!

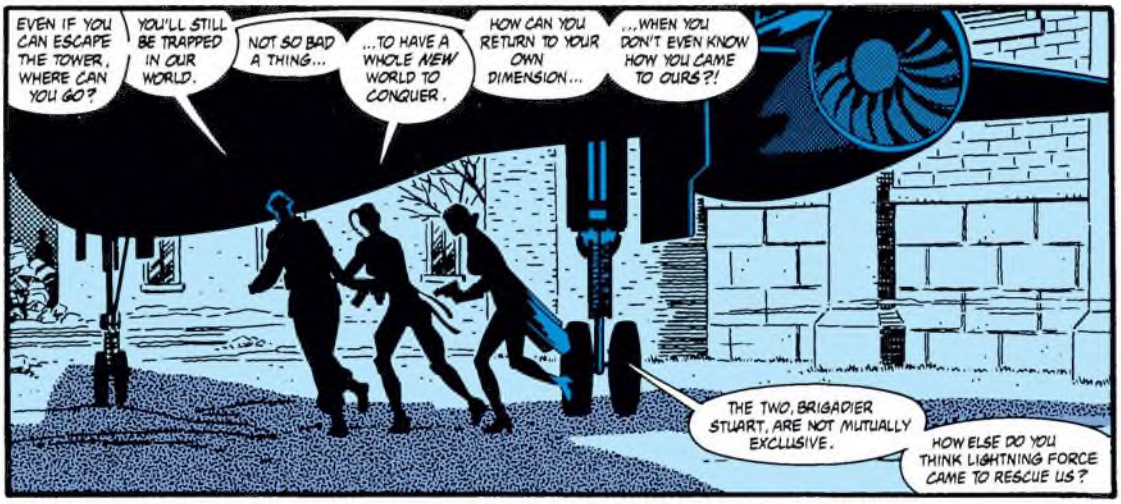
THE TOWER OF LONDON...
ON ONE SIDE, HAUPTMANN ENGLANDE, LEADER OF THE THIRD REICH'S LIGHTNING FORCE.
ON THE OTHER, HIS DOPPELGANGER -- IDENTICAL TO HIM IN EVERY PHYSICAL RESPECT --
-- CAPTAIN BRITAIN OF EXCALIBUR...
WIDGET
A STAN LEE PRESENTATION BY
CHRIS CLAREMONT · WRITER
MARSHALL ROGERS · GUEST PENCILER
TERRY AUSTIN · GUEST INKER
MAS & HEISLER · LETTERERS
GLYNIS OLIVER · COLORIST
TERRY KAVANAGH EDITOR · TOM DEFALCO REFEREE · CHRIS CLAREMONT & ALAN DAVIS CREATORS
... THE ONLY THING STANDING BETWEEN THE NAZI AND TOTAL TRIUMPH.
POW
BUT NOT FOR LONG.


KOOM
I'M FIGHTING MYSELF!
FROM THE BRIEF GLANCE I GOT...
INCREDIBLE!
WHY PROLONG THE INEVITABLE, CAPTAIN--
--AT THE COST OF CONSIDERABLE PAIN?
THERE IS NO SHAME IN SURRENDER TO SUPERIOR FORCE.
IF OUR RESEMBLANCE IS EVEN SLIGHTLY MORE THAN SKIN-DEEP, HAUPTMANN...
...YOU KNOW MY ANSWER.

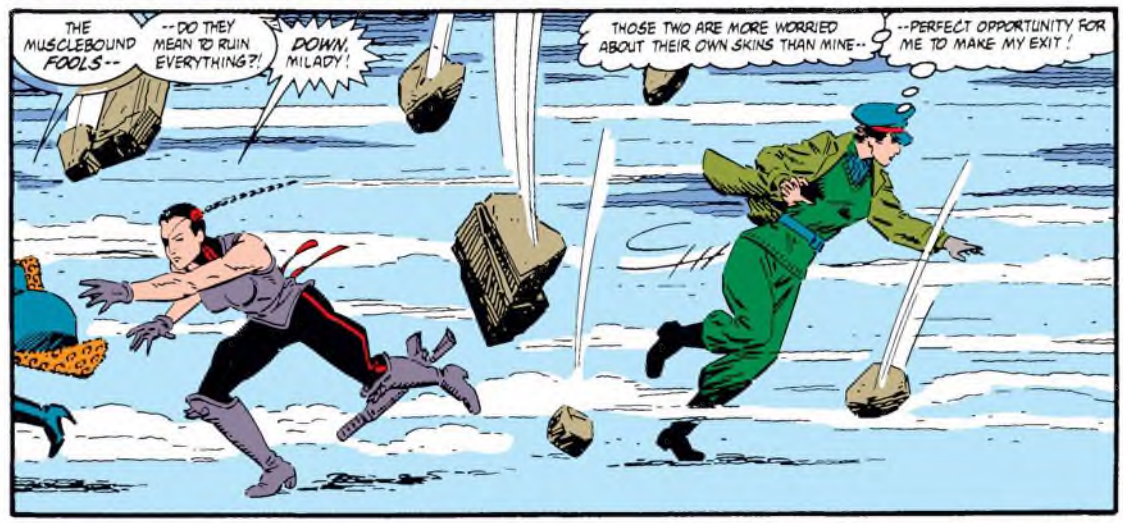

...THERE SEEM TO BE NAZI COUNTERPARTS FOR ALL OF EXCALIBUR.
AND I APPEAR TO BE THEIR SOLE OPPOSITION LEFT. LUCKY ME.
WORSE YET, MY ORIGINAL COSTUME WAS ALL I COULD FIND TO WEAR.
NEVER CONSIDERED HOW MUCH I'VE GROWN SINCE THEN.
I TAKE A DEEP BREATH, IT'LL SPLIT WIDE OPEN!
AS KITTY WOULD SAY, "LIFE IS TOUGH."
IT'S ABOUT TO GET TOUGHER.
BRAVO, CAPTAIN, THAT'S THE SPIRIT.
GALLANT TO YOUR GRAVE!
TAKE CARE, NIGHTCRAWLER.
BLESS MY SOUL, FRAULEIN MEGGAN, I STAND CORRECTED.
YOU REALLY THINK THAT RAGAMUFFIN HAS A CHANCE?
CARE TO PLACE A SMALL WAGER ON THE OUTCOME THEN?
OVERCONFIDENCE CAN BE AS DEADLY AS ANY FOE.
FOR MYSELF, I LOVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BET ON A SURE THING.

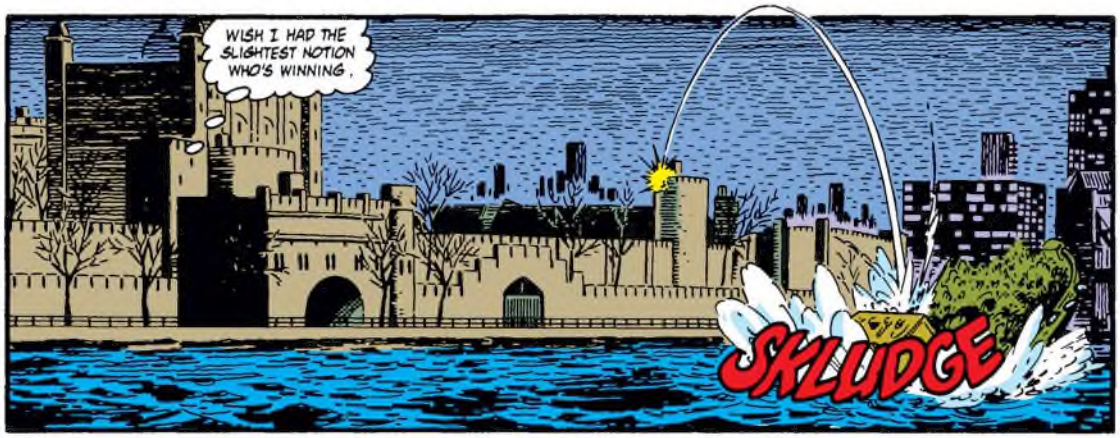

WHUMF
FOOL! IT'S YOUR FUNERAL!
I-- FELT THAT!
BARELY SAW IT COMING.
NO CHANCE TO BLOCK.
I'M TOO WEAK.
WHATEVER AFFECTED ME-- CRIPPLED MY STRENGTH IN AMERICA"--
--IT'S LEFT ME NO MATCH--
OHWW!
WOD
YOU'RE MAKING THIS TOO EASY, CAPTAIN--
--HARDLY WORTH THE EFFORT.
WHOK
"EXCALIBUR" #69.-- T.K.

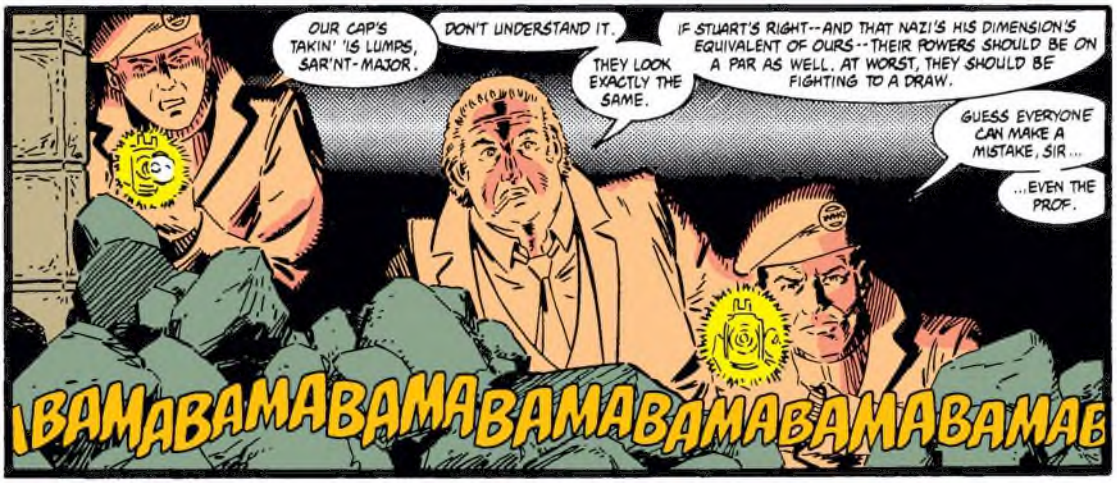

INSIDE THE TOWER, HEADQUARTERS OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S WEIRD HAPPENINGS ORGANIZATION...
WATCH IT!
THAT PAIR'S MAKIN' A FAIR MESS O' THIS OLD PLACE!
WHO'S TOP SOLDIER HERE?
S'POSE I AM, SIR, SERGEANT-MAJOR SUTCLIFFE!
COMMANDER DAI THOMAS-- SCOTLAND YARD SPECIAL BRANCH.
PRISON BREAK, SIR, INSTIGATED BY THIS OTHER EXCALIBUR GROUP. TWO NAZI LADIES-- DR. MACTAGGERT AN' MS. CALLISTO -- ARE OUT, WITH BRIGADIER STUART AS HOSTAGE.
WHAT'S THE SITUATION?!
RIGHT ROYAL COCK-UP, IF YOU ASK ME.
I DIDN'T. I WANT REINFORCEMENTS, FAST!
WHAT A DISPLAY!
ALMOST AS ENJOYABLE TO WATCH...
"...AS PARTICIPATE IN."
ARE YOU TOO STUPID, DOG...
...TO KNOW WHEN YOU ARE BEATEN?
I'VE BEEN "BEATEN" BY EXPERTS, HAUPTMANN.
KWUD
YOU DON'T EVEN COME CLOSE.
THAT'S BRIGHT. MAKE HIM MAD, SO HE'LL HIT HARDER.
EVEN IF HE GETS CARELESS-- MAKES A MISTAKE--
--I'LL PROBABLY BE IN NO SHAPE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE.

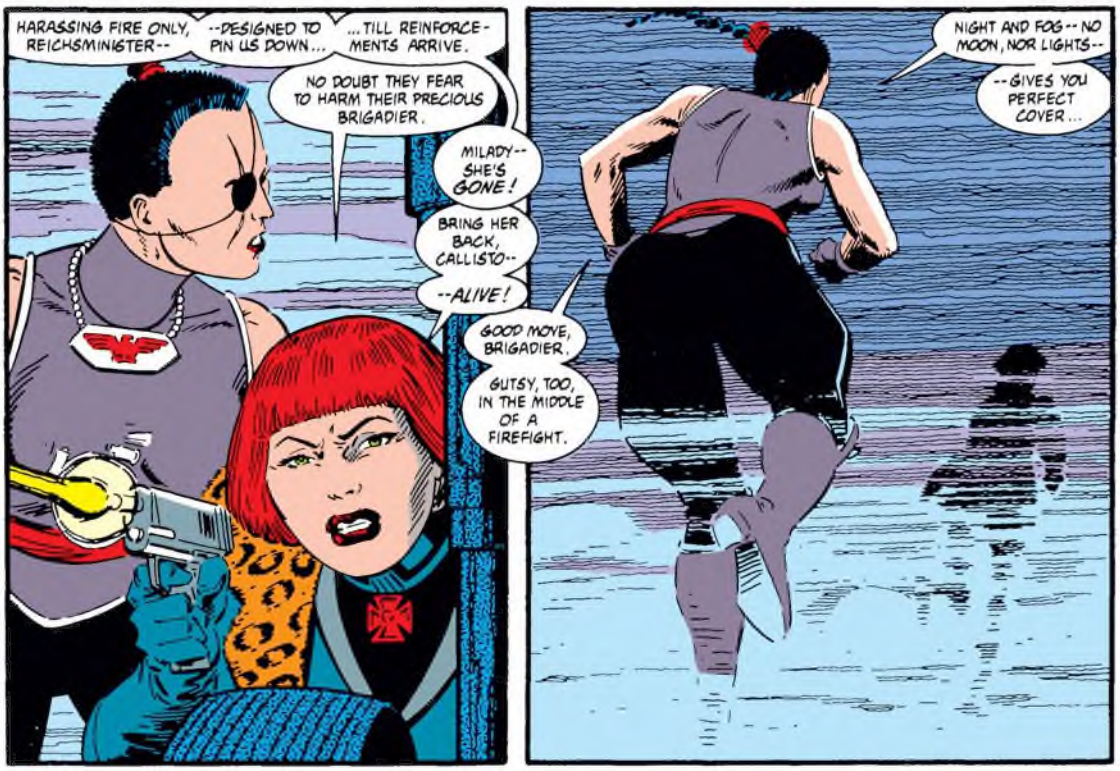

EVEN IF YOU CAN ESCAPE THE TOWER, WHERE CAN YOU GO?
YOU'LL STILL BE TRAPPED IN OUR WORLD.
NOT SO BAD A THING...
...TO HAVE A WHOLE NEW WORLD TO CONQUER.
HOW CAN YOU RETURN TO YOUR OWN DIMENSION...
...WHEN YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW YOU CAME TO OURS?!
THE TWO, BRIGADIER STUART, ARE NOT MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE.
HOW ELSE DO YOU THINK LIGHTNING FORCE CAME TO RESCUE US?

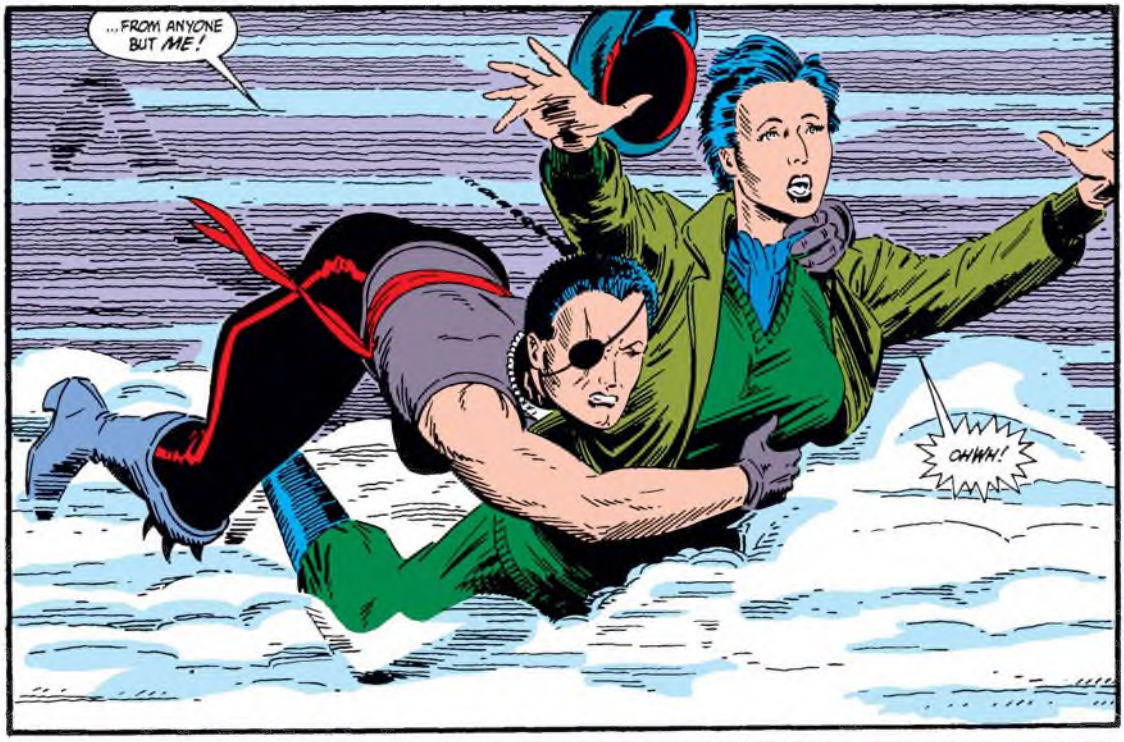
IS THAT POSSIBLE--?!?
FOR THE THOUSAND-YEAR REICH, NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE.
CALLISTO, MAKE IT READY FOR FLIGHT.
WE WILL USE THIS AIRCRAFT TO DEPART LONDON.
BRIGADIER, ORDER YOUR TROOPS TO WITHDRAW, I REQUIRE AN IMMEDIATE CEASE-FIRE.
KAWAK
EASIER SAID, I SUSPECT, REICHSMINISTER MACTAGGERT...
...THAN DONE.


THE MUSCLEBOUND FOOLS--
--DO THEY MEAN TO RUIN EVERYTHING?!
DOWN, MILADY!
THOSE TWO ARE MORE WORRIED ABOUT THEIR OWN SKINS THAN MINE--
--PERFECT OPPORTUNITY FOR ME TO MAKE MY EXIT!


WISH I HAD THE SLIGHTEST NOTION WHO'S WINNING.
SKLUDGE

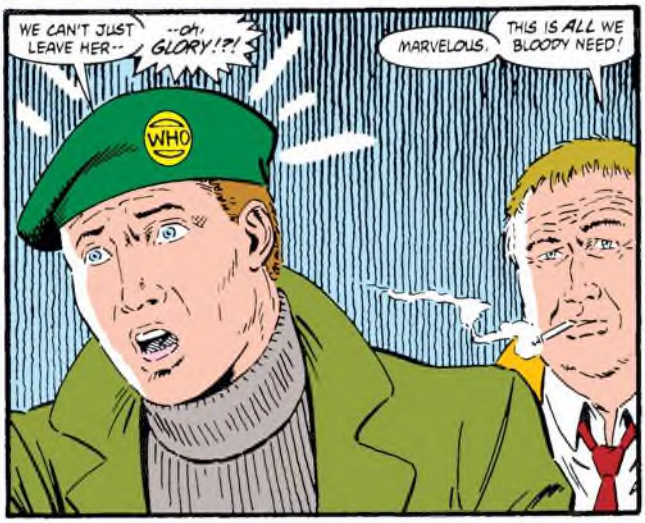

OUR CAP'S TAKIN' 'IS LUMPS, SAR'NT-MAJOR.
DON'T UNDERSTAND IT.
THEY LOOK EXACTLY THE SAME.
IF STUART'S RIGHT--AND THAT NAZI'S HIS DIMENSION'S EQUIVALENT OF OURS--THEIR POWERS SHOULD BE ON A PAR AS WELL. AT WORST, THEY SHOULD BE FIGHTING TO A DRAW.
GUESS EVERYONE CAN MAKE A MISTAKE, SIR...
...EVEN THE PROF.
BAMABAMABAMABAMABAMABAMABAMAB

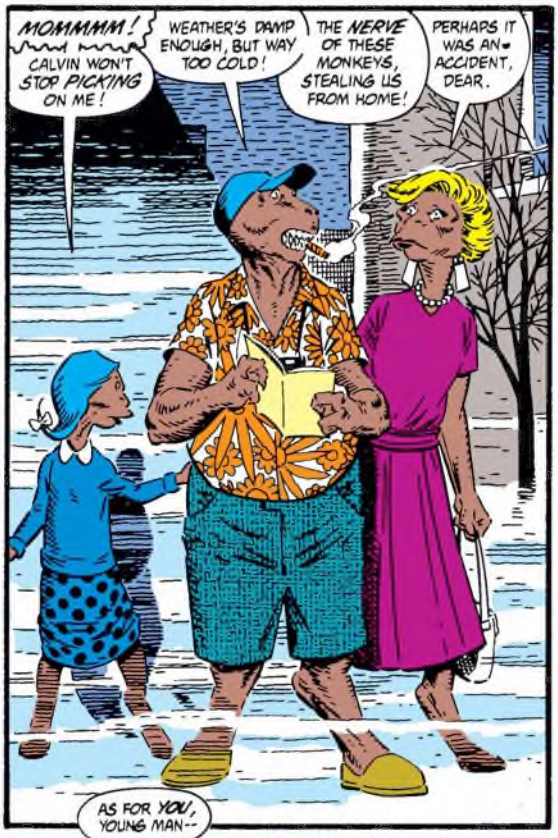

HARASSING FIRE ONLY, REICHSMINISTER--
--DESIGNED TO PIN US DOWN...
...TILL REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVE.
NO DOUBT THEY FEAR TO HARM THEIR PRECIOUS BRIGADIER.
MILADY--SHE'S GONE!
BRING HER BACK, CALLISTO--
--ALIVE!
GOOD MOVE, BRIGADIER.
GUTSY, TOO, IN THE MIDDLE OF A FIREFIGHT.
NIGHT AND FOG--NO MOON, NOR LIGHTS--
--GIVES YOU PERFECT COVER...

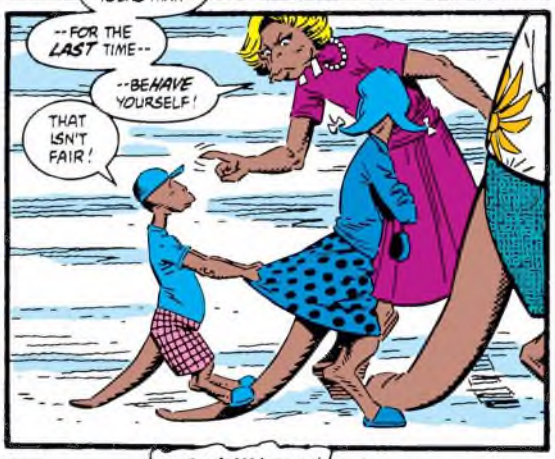

...FROM ANYONE BUT ME!
OHHH!

REICHSMINISTER WANTS YOU BREATHING.
THE REST IS LEFT TO MY DISCRETION.
BEHAVE--OR I'LL BREAK YOU!
CALL OFF YOUR DOGS, POLICEMAN...
BAM BAM BA

...OR BRIGADIER STUART WILL SUFFER!
SHE'S SERIOUS, COMMANDER.
IT'S A BLUFF, LADDY.
EASY FOR YOU TO SAY.
YOU THINK YOUR BRIGADIER...
...WOULD CALL THIS ANY DIFFERENTLY?


WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE HER--
--OH, GLORY!?!
MARVELOUS.
THIS IS ALL WE BLOODY NEED!
WHO


MOMMMM!
CALVIN WON'T STOP PICKING ON ME!
WEATHER'S DAMP ENOUGH, BUT WAY TOO COLD!
THE NERVE OF THESE MONKEYS, STEALING US FROM HOME!
PERHAPS IT WAS AN ACCIDENT, DEAR.


AS FOR YOU, YOUNG MAN--
--FOR THE LAST TIME--
--BEHAVE YOURSELF!
THAT ISN'T FAIR!

MOMMMMMMM!
I NEVER GET TO HAVE ANY FUN!
WAP!

APPROPRIATE.
SUNK WITH A GARBAGE BARGE.
NOT THE BATTLE I'D HOPED FOR...
... BUT A VICTORY NONETHE...

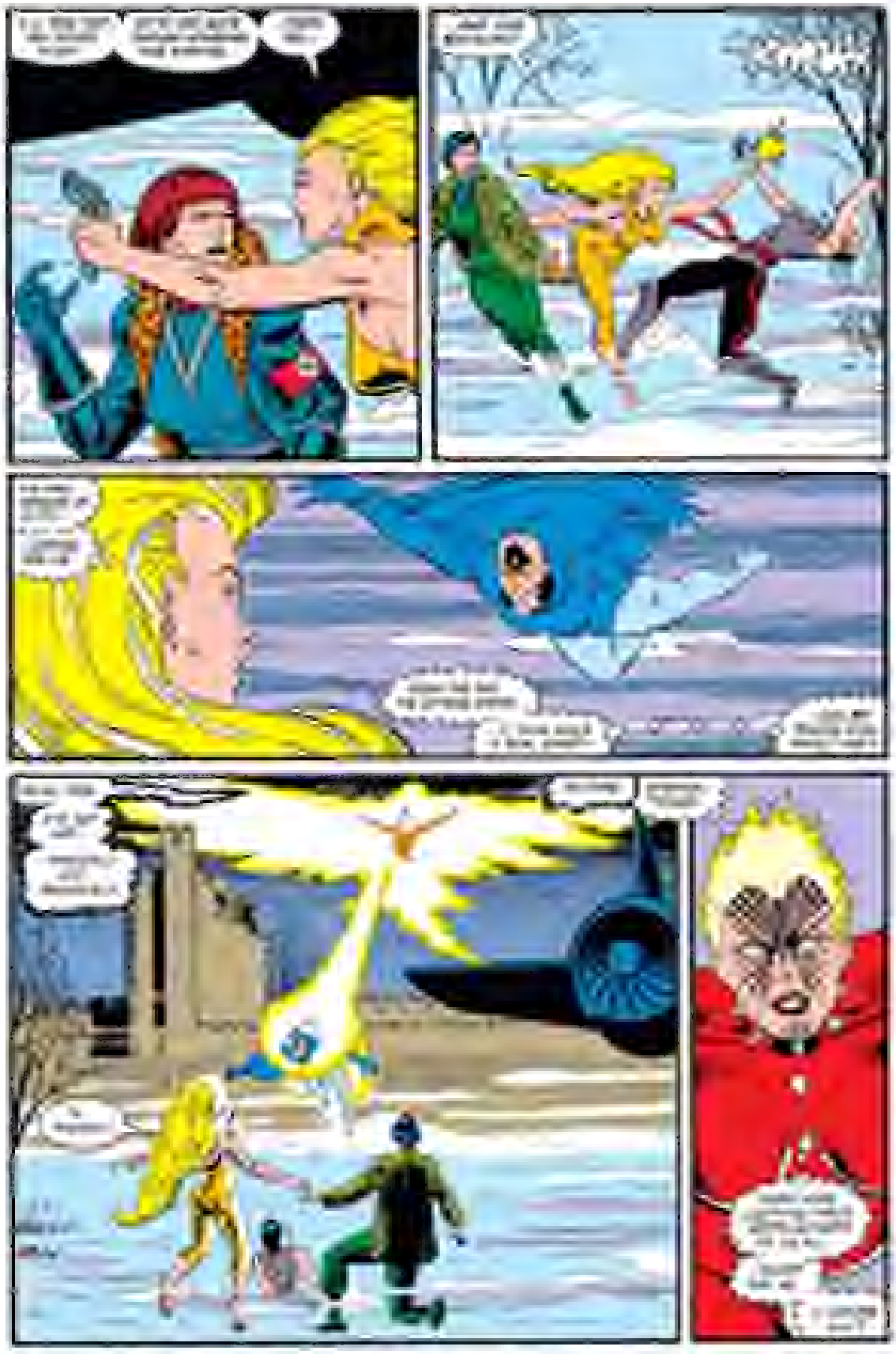
...LESS.
AN OLD FAILING AMONG YOUR KIND, HAUPTMANN...
...CELEBRATING YOUR TRIUMPH--

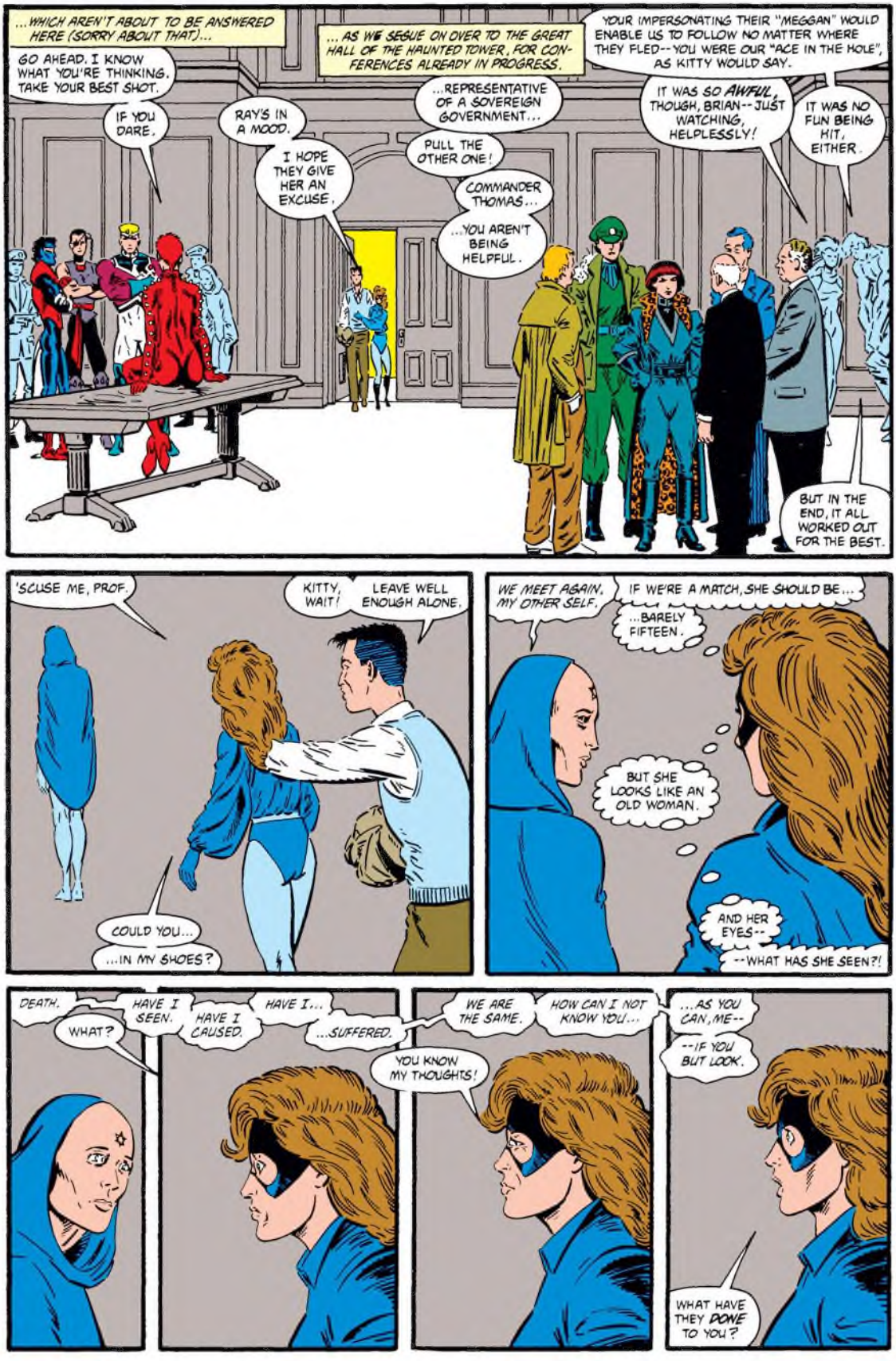
SHAKOW
KRAK!!
Ohhh!

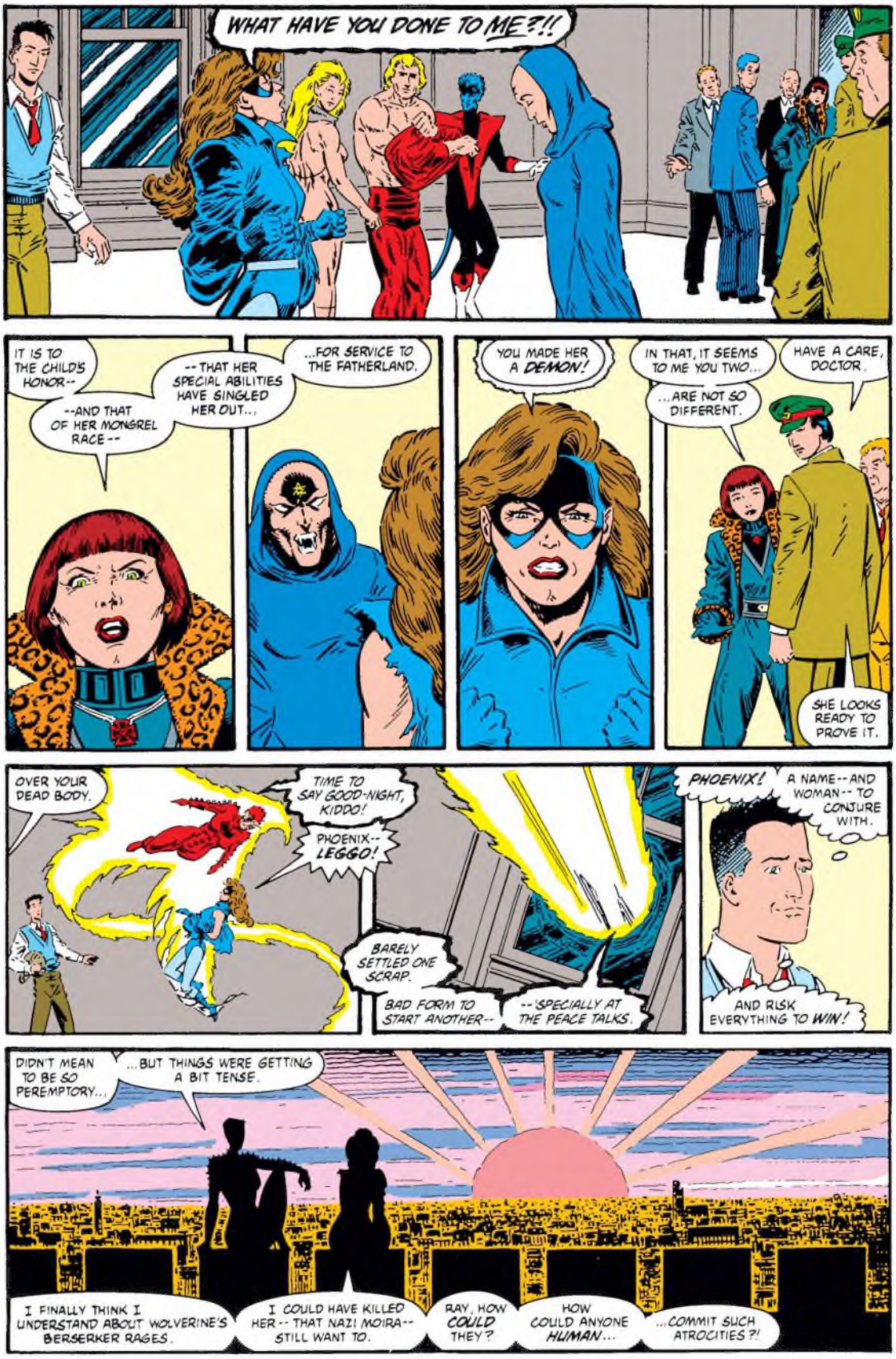
YOOOM

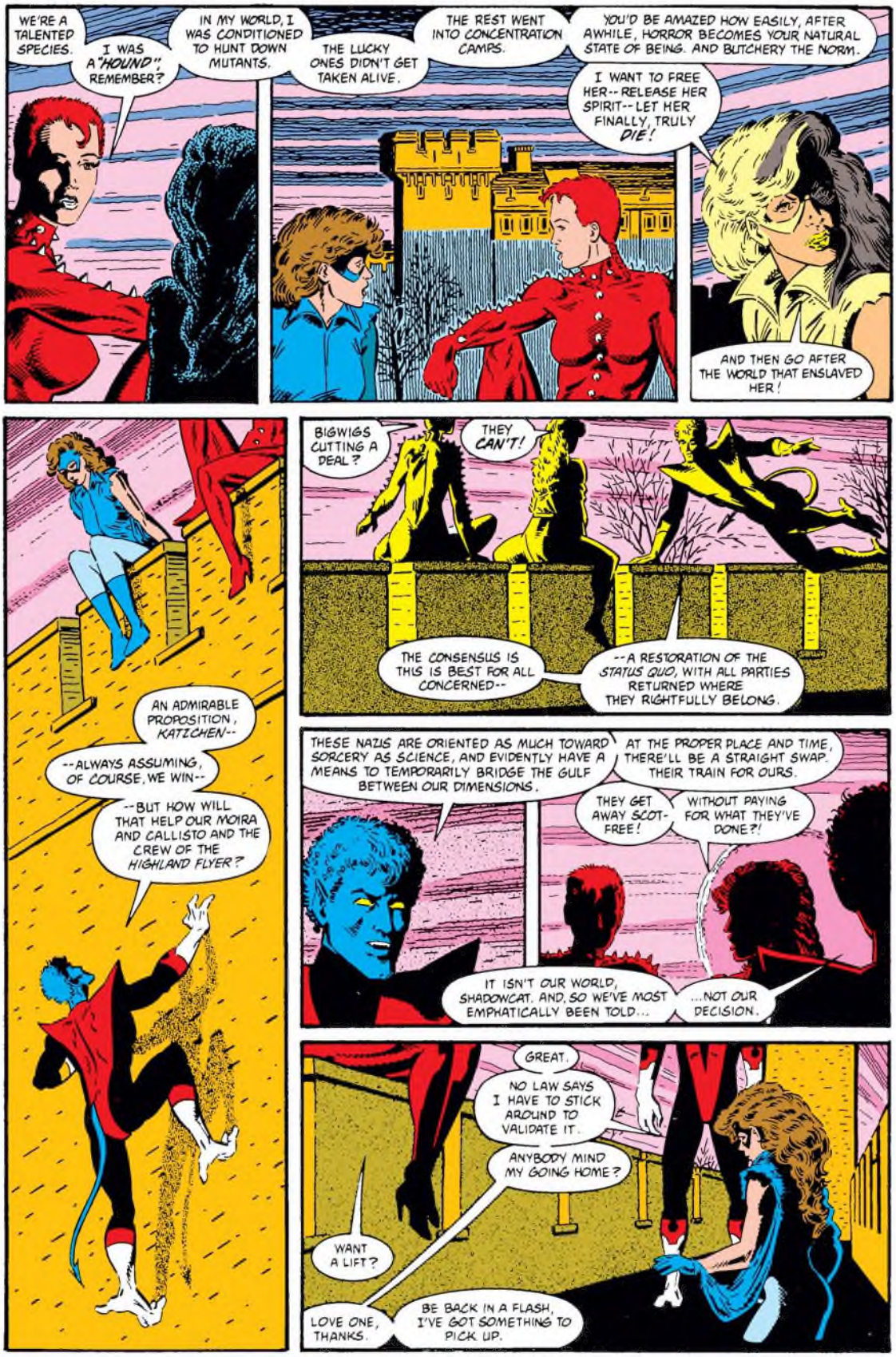
PSI

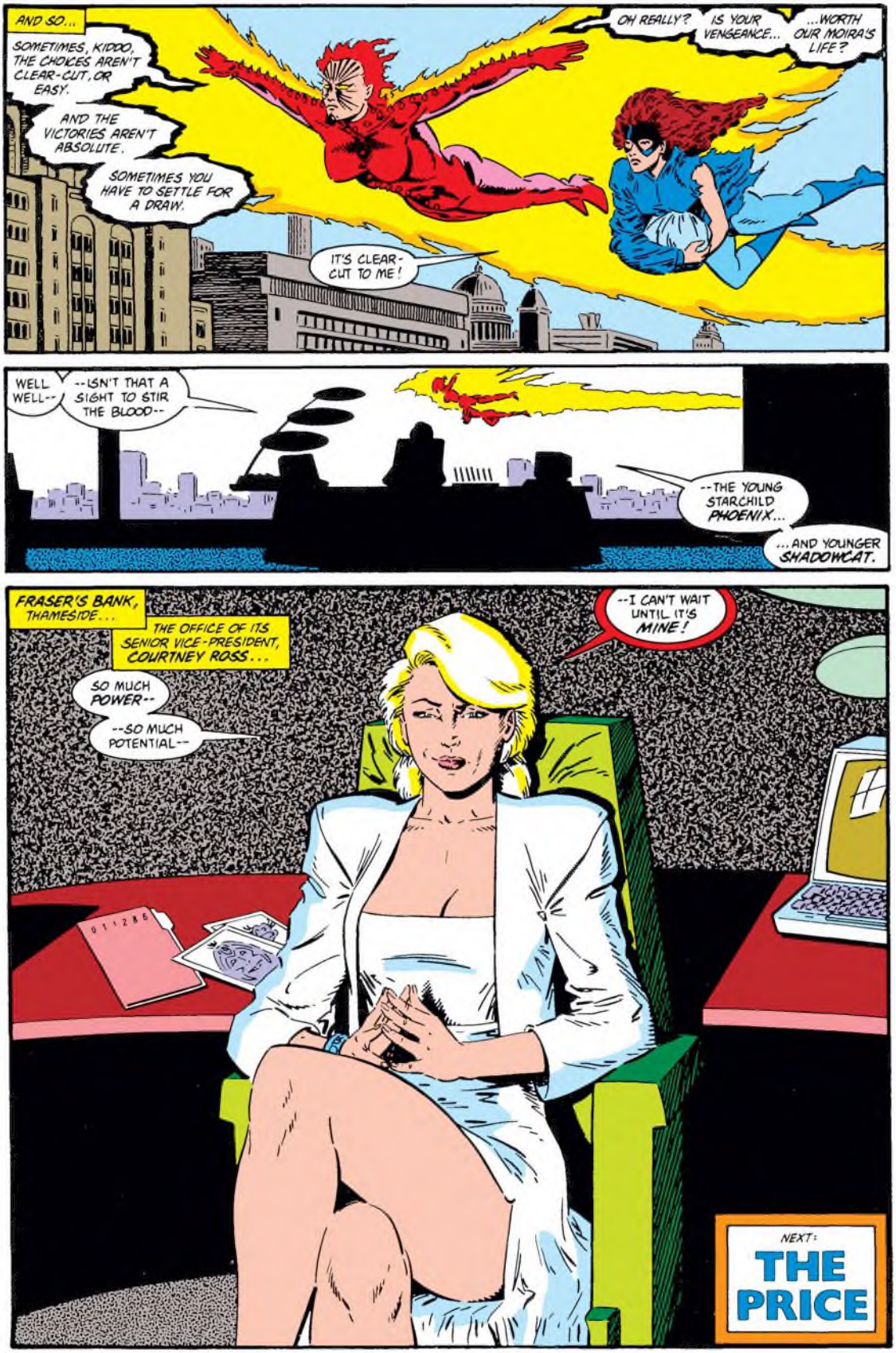
SLAMM
SLAMM




...WHICH AREN'T ABOUT TO BE ANSWERED HERE (SORRY ABOUT THAT)...
...AS WE SEGUE ON OVER TO THE GREAT HALL OF THE HAUNTED TOWER, FOR CONFERENCES ALREADY IN PROGRESS.
YOUR IMPERSONATING THEIR "MEGGAN" WOULD ENABLE US TO FOLLOW NO MATTER WHERE THEY FLED--YOU WERE OUR "ACE IN THE HOLE", AS KITTY WOULD SAY.
GO AHEAD. I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING. TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT.
IF YOU DARE.
RAY'S IN A MOOD.
I HOPE THEY GIVE HER AN EXCUSE.
...REPRESENTATIVE OF A SOVEREIGN GOVERNMENT...
PULL THE OTHER ONE!
COMMANDER THOMAS...
...YOU AREN'T BEING HELPFUL.
IT WAS SO AWFUL, THOUGH, BRIAN--JUST WATCHING, HELPLESSLY!
IT WAS NO FUN BEING HIT, EITHER.
BUT IN THE END, IT ALL WORKED OUT FOR THE BEST.
'SCUSE ME, PROF.
KITTY, WAIT!
LEAVE WELL ENOUGH ALONE.
COULD YOU...
...IN MY SHOES?
WE MEET AGAIN, MY OTHER SELF.
IF WE'RE A MATCH, SHE SHOULD BE...
...BARELY FIFTEEN.
BUT SHE LOOKS LIKE AN OLD WOMAN.
AND HER EYES--
--WHAT HAS SHE SEEN?!
DEATH.
WHAT?
HAVE I SEEN.
HAVE I CAUSED.
HAVE I...
...SUFFERED.
WE ARE THE SAME.
HOW CAN I NOT KNOW YOU...
YOU KNOW MY THOUGHTS!
...AS YOU CAN, ME--
--IF YOU BUT LOOK.
WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO YOU?


WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME?!!
IT IS TO THE CHILD'S HONOR--
--AND THAT OF HER MONGREL RACE--
--THAT HER SPECIAL ABILITIES HAVE SINGLED HER OUT...
...FOR SERVICE TO THE FATHERLAND.
YOU MADE HER A DEMON!
IN THAT, IT SEEMS TO ME YOU TWO...
...ARE NOT SO DIFFERENT.
HAVE A CARE, DOCTOR.
SHE LOOKS READY TO PROVE IT.
OVER YOUR DEAD BODY.
TIME TO SAY GOOD-NIGHT, KIDDO!
PHOENIX-- LEGGO!
BARELY SETTLED ONE SCRAP.
BAD FORM TO START ANOTHER--
--'SPECIALLY AT THE PEACE TALKS.
PHOENIX!
A NAME--AND WOMAN-- TO CONJURE WITH.
AND RISK EVERYTHING TO WIN!
DIDN'T MEAN TO BE SO PEREMPTORY...
...BUT THINGS WERE GETTING A BIT TENSE.
I FINALLY THINK I UNDERSTAND ABOUT WOLVERINE'S BERSERKER RAGES.
I COULD HAVE KILLED HER-- THAT NAZI MOIRA-- STILL WANT TO.
RAY, HOW COULD THEY?
HOW COULD ANYONE HUMAN...
...COMMIT SUCH ATROCITIES?!


WE'RE A TALENTED SPECIES.
I WAS A "HOUND", REMEMBER?
IN MY WORLD, I WAS CONDITIONED TO HUNT DOWN MUTANTS.
THE LUCKY ONES DIDN'T GET TAKEN ALIVE.
THE REST WENT INTO CONCENTRATION CAMPS.
YOU'D BE AMAZED HOW EASILY, AFTER AWHILE, HORROR BECOMES YOUR NATURAL STATE OF BEING. AND BUTCHERY THE NORM.
I WANT TO FREE HER-- RELEASE HER SPIRIT-- LET HER FINALLY, TRULY DIE!
AND THEN GO AFTER THE WORLD THAT ENSLAVED HER!
AN ADMIRABLE PROPOSITION, KATZCHEN--
--ALWAYS ASSUMING, OF COURSE, WE WIN--
--BUT HOW WILL THAT HELP OUR MOIRA AND CALLISTO AND THE CREW OF THE HIGHLAND FLYER?
BIGWIGS CUTTING A DEAL?
THEY CAN'T!
THE CONSENSUS IS THIS IS BEST FOR ALL CONCERNED--
--A RESTORATION OF THE STATUS QUO, WITH ALL PARTIES RETURNED WHERE THEY RIGHTFULLY BELONG.
THESE NAZIS ARE ORIENTED AS MUCH TOWARD SORCERY AS SCIENCE, AND EVIDENTLY HAVE A MEANS TO TEMPORARILY BRIDGE THE GULF BETWEEN OUR DIMENSIONS.
AT THE PROPER PLACE AND TIME, THERE'LL BE A STRAIGHT SWAP. THEIR TRAIN FOR OURS.
THEY GET AWAY SCOT-FREE!
WITHOUT PAYING FOR WHAT THEY'VE DONE?!
IT ISN'T OUR WORLD, SHADOWCAT. AND, SO WE'VE MOST EMPHATICALLY BEEN TOLD...
...NOT OUR DECISION.
GREAT.
NO LAW SAYS I HAVE TO STICK AROUND TO VALIDATE IT.
ANYBODY MIND MY GOING HOME?
WANT A LIFT?
LOVE ONE, THANKS.
BE BACK IN A FLASH, I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO PICK UP.


AND SO...
SOMETIMES, KIDDO, THE CHOICES AREN'T CLEAR-CUT, OR EASY.
AND THE VICTORIES AREN'T ABSOLUTE.
SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO SETTLE FOR A DRAW.
IT'S CLEAR-CUT TO ME!
OH REALLY?
IS YOUR VENGEANCE...
...WORTH OUR MOIRA'S LIFE?
WELL WELL--
--ISN'T THAT A SIGHT TO STIR THE BLOOD--
--THE YOUNG STARCHILD PHOENIX...
...AND YOUNGER SHADOWCAT.
FRASER'S BANK, THAMESIDE...
THE OFFICE OF ITS SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT, COURTNEY ROSS...
SO MUCH POWER--
--SO MUCH POTENTIAL--
--I CAN'T WAIT UNTIL IT'S MINE!
NEXT:
THE PRICE